DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 080 057 HE 004 399

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TITLE	Employment of Recent College Graduates.
INSTITUTION	Bureau of Labor Statistics (DOL), Washington, D.C. Div. of Labor Force Studies.
REPORT NO	Special-Labor-Force-151
PUB DATE	73
NOTE	32p.; Reprint 2860
JOURNAL CIT	Monthly Labor Review; Feb 1973
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	College Graduates; *Employment Opportunities; *Employment Patterns; *Employment Projections; *Job Market; *Occupational Surveys; Research; Research Projects

ABSTRACT

This report examines the job status in October 1971 of recent college graduates and whether they obtained work in their chosen field. Data obtained from supplementary questions to the October 1971 Current Population Survey indicate there were 1.2 million 20- to 34-year olds who had received degrees in 1970 and 1971. The survey showed that of the 1.1 million men and women who received degrees in 1970 and 1971 and were available for work in October 1971, more than 9 out of 10 were employed. More than three fourths of those employed were in jobs directly or somewhat directly related to their major field of study. The October 1971 unemployment rate for degree recipients (7.4%), while 2 percentage points higher than the rate for the total labor force, was about half that of high school graduates of 1970 and 1971. Appendices include explanatory notes, survey forms, and statistical data. (MJM)

ED 080057

Employment of Recent College Graduates

Special Labor Force Report 151

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
1973

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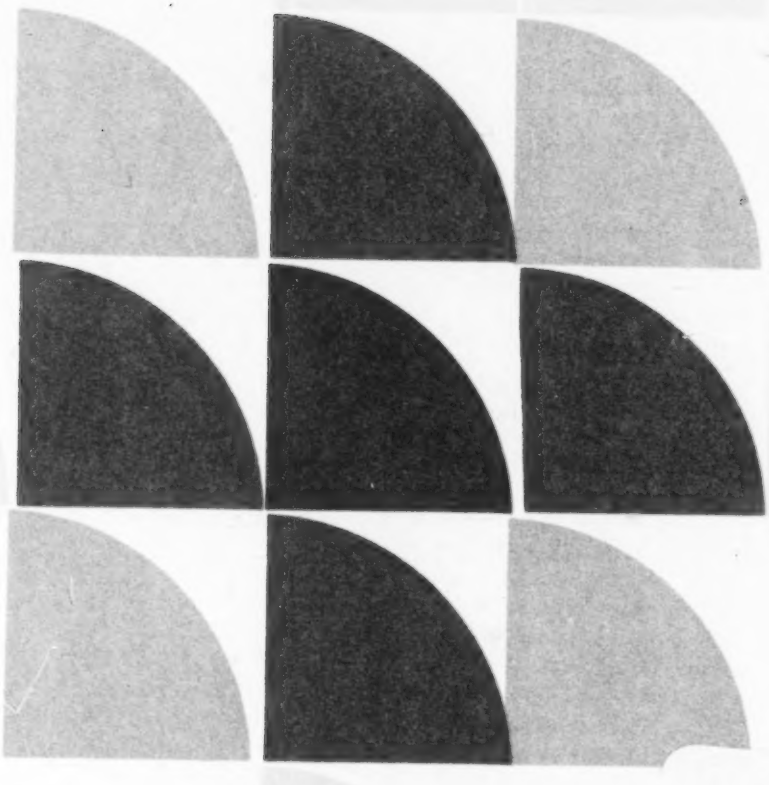

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Employment of recent college graduates

Special Labor Force Report examines the job status in October 1971 of recent college graduates and whether they obtained work in their chosen fields

VERA C. PERRELLA

THE WEAKENED JOB MARKET of the early 1970's adversely affected the employment situation of all college graduates, and especially those who had only recently left school. This development resulted from sharp cutbacks in research and in military and space program expenditures, the easing of the long-term shortage of elementary and secondary school teachers, and the continuing increases in the number of persons graduating from college. Concern about the increase in unemployment among professional workers led to a special survey of persons who had recently graduated from college. (See box.)

The survey showed that of the 1.1 million men and women who received degrees in 1970 and 1971 and were available for work in October 1971, more than 9 out of 10 were employed. More than three-fourths of those employed were in jobs directly or somewhat related to their major field of study. The October 1971 unemployment rate for the degree recipients (7.4 percent), while 2 percentage points higher than the rate for the total labor force, was about half that of high school graduates of 1970 and 1971.

About 7 percent of the degree recipients were not in the labor force in October 1971. A similar proportion had not worked at all since obtaining their degrees; about half of these were out of the labor force and half were looking for work in October. The 1970 degree recipients did not differ significantly from those of 1971 with respect to either labor force participation rate or unemployment rate.

The survey group

Data obtained from supplementary questions to the October 1971 Current Population Survey indicate there were 1.2 million 20- to 34-year-olds who had received degrees in 1970 and 1971 (excluding those who were enrolled full time in a college or university for further study). Almost 70 percent of these degree recipients were age 20 to 24.

To put these numbers into perspective, the total recipient group (age 20–34) were about 3 percent of all persons in these ages who were not in school full time. The proportion rises to 6 percent when only the younger group (20–24) is considered.

Half the women and slightly more than half the men were married. One out of 8 of the men was a Vietnam Era veteran, most often age 25 to 29.

The survey group included almost equal proportions of 1970 and 1971 degree recipients. In both years, a larger proportion of women than of men were in the younger ages (20 to 24). Girls tend to graduate from high school at an earlier age than boys, and men are more likely than women to get advanced degrees (65 percent of the advanced degree recipients were men). Also, military service had interrupted the education of some of the men.

Scope of the survey

The survey, conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, was financed by the Manpower Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. It included persons 18 to 34 years old in the civilian noninstitutional population who completed requirements for baccalaureate, first professional, and advanced degrees in 1970 and up to the survey date in October 1971 and were not enrolled full time in a college or university.

Sampling variability of data in this survey is relatively large because the total number of degree recipients and the number of them in the sample are small; therefore, differences between estimates should be interpreted with caution.

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From February 1973
Monthly Labor Review
With supplementary tables
Reprint 2860

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics

About 63 percent of the survey group were still in their first jobs[1] in October 1971. Most of the rest had changed jobs, and a small proportion who had had at least one job were looking for work or were out of the labor force. Men and women did not differ significantly in these respects, except that slightly higher proportions of men than of women were still on their first jobs.

Three-fourths of the degree recipients had earned baccalaureate degrees and most of the rest, master's. Almost two-thirds of the degree recipients were age 22 to 24.

Four major fields of study—education, social sciences, business and commerce, and humanities—accounted for more than three-fourths of the degrees. Education was the largest single field, with about a fourth of the degrees.

The number of Negro men and women graduates was too small to derive reliable estimates of their characteristics—78,000, or 7 percent of the degree recipients.

Similarly, only a limited amount of information is available by age and by year of completion of degree requirements, because cross-classifications by the various measures yield too small figures for reliable estimates. Therefore, some of the overall measures may obscure differences between younger and older men and women, and between those who completed degree requirements in 1970 and those who finished in 1971.

The first job

Altogether, 1.1 million of the 1.2 million degree recipients had had at least one job in the period from completion of degree requirements to the time of the survey (table 1). In these first jobs, 62 percent were in professional, technical, and kindred occupations (almost half of these in teaching jobs at the elementary or secondary school level), about 15 percent in clerical jobs, and about 10 percent in managerial and sales jobs. (See table 2.) While about the same proportions of men and women were in professional occupations, relatively twice as many women as men were teachers. In nonprofessional occupations, women were concentrated in the clerical field, while men were about as likely to be in blue-collar or sales as in clerical occupations.

About one-half were in work directly related to their major field of study, almost a fifth in work somewhat related, and about a third in work not at all related. (See table 3.) Those with majors in education and business or commerce were much more likely to be in work directly or somewhat related to their fields than were those with majors in the humanities or social sciences.

Of the degree recipients who took first jobs not directly related to their major fields of study, about 6 out of 10 said they did so because they were the only jobs they could find. Of those who were working in jobs not directly related to their fields, a larger proportion of women than of men took the jobs because these were the only ones they could find (two-thirds and one-half, respectively). About 1 out of 10 men but virtually none of the women took the nonrelated job because they thought it offered better opportunities for advancement than a job in their field.[2]

Table 1. Labor force status of 1970 and 1971 recipients of bachelor's and advanced degrees, by selected characteristics, October 1971

[Numbers in thousands]

Characteristic	Total degree recipients[1]	In labor force					Not in labor force
		Total	Labor force participation rate	Employed	Unemployed		
					Number	Rate	
All persons	1,191	1,106	92.9	1,024	82	7.4	85
AGE							
20 to 24 years	823	751	91.3	687	64	8.5	72
20 and 21 years	62	57	(2)	46	11	(2)	5
22 to 24 years	761	694	91.2	641	53	7.6	67
25 to 29 years	275	267	97.1	251	16	6.0	8
30 to 34 years	93	88	94.6	86	2	2.3	5
SEX							
Men	671	636	94.8	599	37	5.8	35
Women	520	470	90.4	425	45	9.6	50
RACE							
White	1,113	1,033	92.8	957	76	7.4	80
Negro and other races	78	73	93.6	67	6	(2)	5
TYPE OF DEGREE							
Bachelor's	911	837	91.9	766	71	8.5	74
Master's	204	196	96.1	186	10	5.1	8
All other degrees	76	73	96.1	72	1	(2)	3
MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY							
Business or commerce	199	188	94.5	178	10	5.3	11
Education	298	275	92.3	258	17	6.2	23
Humanities	175	161	92.0	140	21	13.0	14
Social sciences	242	218	90.1	198	20	9.2	24
All other fields	277	264	95.3	250	14	5.3	13

[1] Persons under age 35 in the civilian noninstitutional population in October 1971 who received baccalaureate or advanced degrees in 1970 or 1971 and who were not enrolled in school full time in October 1971.

[2] Percent not shown where base is less than 75,000.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not add to totals.

Industries with the largest proportions of the employed men and women were service (55 percent), trade (16 percent), and manufacturing (11 percent). Teaching is included in the educational services component of the service industries group.

Overall, about 84 percent were in full-time jobs. Among these full-time workers, the median annual rate of pay on the first job was $6,633 for baccalaureates and $10,158 for those with master's and Ph.D.'s.

Length of search for first job

Almost 6 out of 10 had no unemployment between completion of degree requirements and their first job, because they continued in a job they had held while completing degree requirements (as in the case of teachers who were getting advanced degrees while working), had arranged for the job before completing degree requirements, or had obtained it without having to do any looking. (See table 4.)

The proportion in these three groups did not vary significantly by field of study, with one exception, the humanities, where the proportion was only about a third.

Among men and women who looked for jobs after completing their degree requirements, about half looked for work for 4 weeks or less before finding it.[3] Fewer than 10 percent had looked for 27 weeks or more (these persons were probably those who had completed degree requirements in 1970).

Getting the first job entailed a period of unemployment for women more often than for men. For those in professional occupations, for example, 31 percent of the men and 43 percent of the women had a period of unemployment. But those who obtained jobs in professional occupations were less likely to have had unemployment than those in other occupations (perhaps because applicants for the professions settled for nonprofessional jobs when the job search lengthened unduly).

The approximately 250,000 men and women

Table 2. Occupation and industry group of first job and October 1971 job of degree recipients, by sex

[Percent distribution]

Occupation and industry group	First job			October 1971 job		
	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women
OCCUPATION GROUP						
Total: Number (thousands)	1,106	634	472	1,024	599	425
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional and technical workers	62.1	60.6	64.0	69.7	66.2	74.2
Engineers	6.1	11.0	.2	6.3	11.1	.2
Life and physical scientists	.9	1.5	.2	.8	1.3	.2
Health occupations	5.0	4.4	5.8	5.4	4.9	6.0
Social scientists	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.1	2.1	2.2
Teachers, college and university	2.5	3.7	1.1	3.7	5.5	1.4
Teachers, except college	28.1	17.4	41.1	33.5	20.7	50.0
Engineering and science technicians	.7	.7	.7	1.0	.9	1.0
Other professional, technical, and kindred workers	17.2	20.4	13.3	16.8	19.7	13.0
Managers and administrators, except farm	2.4	3.3	1.3	2.5	3.2	1.7
Sales workers	7.7	11.0	3.8	7.1	11.3	1.7
Clerical and kindred workers	15.3	9.2	22.7	11.9	7.1	18.1
Secretaries, stenographers, and typists	4.0		8.9	2.6		6.0
Other clerical workers	11.3	9.2	13.8	9.3	7.1	12.1
Service workers	4.8	3.5	6.4	3.6	3.4	3.9
All other workers	7.6	12.5	1.8	5.2	8.8	.5
INDUSTRY GROUP						
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Manufacturing	11.1	17.0	3.3	10.1	15.3	2.8
Durable goods	5.3	8.6	.9	4.9	7.3	1.6
Nondurable goods	5.8	8.4	2.4	5.1	8.0	1.2
Transportation and public utilities	3.2	3.6	2.6	3.4	3.9	2.6
Trade	15.8	18.0	13.0	12.7	15.8	8.2
Finance, insurance, real estate	5.9	7.6	3.7	6.9	9.0	4.0
Service	54.8	40.2	74.3	58.7	43.8	79.2
Educational	(1)	(1)	(1)	39.9	26.9	57.8
All other	(1)	(1)	(1)	18.8	16.9	21.5
Public administration	4.7	6.4	2.4	5.6	7.8	2.6
Other	4.3	7.1	.7	2.7	4.3	.5

[1] Not available.

Table 3. Relationship of work of degree recipients on first job to major field of study, and reason for working in a job not directly related to field, by selected characteristics

[Percent distribution]

Relationship and reason	Total	Sex		Type of degree		Major field of study				
		Men	Women	Bachelors	All other	Business or commerce	Education	Humanities	Social sciences	All other
RELATIONSHIP OF WORK TO FIELD										
Total employed: Number (thousands)	1,106	634	472	840	266	187	273	157	221	268
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Directly related	49.3	46.4	53.4	41.2	74.6	49.1	68.6	33.8	24.5	58.5
Not directly related	50.7	53.6	46.6	58.8	25.4	50.9	31.4	66.2	75.5	41.5
Somewhat related	18.2	21.2	14.1	18.6	17.1	32.4	10.6	16.2	15.7	19.5
Not related	32.4	32.4	32.5	40.2	8.3	18.5	20.8	50.0	59.8	22.1
MAIN REASON FOR WORK NOT DIRECTLY RELATED [1]										
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	[2]	[2]	[2]	100.0	100.0	100.0
Only job could find	56.4	51.1	64.1	56.5				50.0	55.6	56.9
Better opportunities for advancement than in major field	5.7	9.3	.6	5.7				6.4	4.3	4.6
To see if liked kind of work	9.9	11.0	8.3	9.1				11.5	9.4	4.6
Did not want to work in field	4.7	3.1	7.1	4.5				6.4	6.0	3.1
All other	23.2	25.6	19.9	24.1				25.6	24.8	30.8

[1] Excludes persons who were in work not directly related to their field who were still in jobs they held while completing degree requirements.

[2] Percent not shown where base is less than 75,000.

whose job search took 5 weeks or more were asked the main reason for the length of their search. Among both those who looked for 5 to 9 weeks and those who looked for 10 weeks or more, about half said the main reason for the length of the search was that no jobs were available, and a fifth that available jobs were not in their major field of study.

About 10 percent of those who looked for 5 weeks or more said the main reason was not liking the kind of work. About 1 percent cited low pay. These proportions were about the same for men and women who obtained related or not-related work.

For all those in jobs not directly related to the major field of study, the annual rate of pay was examined by the main reason for taking the job. As might be expected, those who said they had taken the unrelated job because it was the only work they could find had considerably lower rates of pay than those giving other reasons.

Those who had to look for jobs after completing degree requirements were asked to indicate the one method by which they had obtained their first jobs. Most had obtained them through direct application to the employer (41 percent), friends or relatives (21 percent), or school placement offices, including professors (18 percent). (See table 5.) Men and women did not differ significantly in this regard, except that women were more likely than men (50 and 34 percent) to have obtained their jobs by applying directly to the employer. This was largely because so many of the women were in teaching jobs obtained by applying directly to the school. The methods generally did not differ significantly by major field of study.

Men whose jobs were in professional occupations were about equally likely to have obtained the jobs through college placement offices or through direct application. Those in nonprofessional occupations obtained their jobs through direct application about twice as often as through college placement offices.

The degree recipients were asked to assess their first job in terms of the statement which best described how they felt about the job at the time they accepted it. Over half said their first job had definite or possible career potential and about one-fifth said they took the job until they could find a better one. Other assessments frequently given were to earn money for some specific purpose (such as travel or to return to school) and to maintain self while deciding on kind of work wanted.

There were differences in this assessment between those who had not looked for their jobs[4] and those who had to look. The proportion assessing their job as having definite career potential was twice as large among those who did not have to look as among those who had looked—42 and 21 percent, respec-

tively. Of course, many of those who did not have to look were already in career-ladder work and earning advanced degrees to further their careers in their fields.

The degree of relationship between the job and the field of study was closely tied to the worker's assessment of definite or possible career potential. About 8 out of 10 of those in jobs directly related to their field of study saw such potential, but fewer than 6 out of 10 of those in somewhat related work and only 2 out of 10 of those in work which was not related.

As might be expected, those in professional, technical, and kindred occupations were much more likely than those in other occupations to assess their jobs as having definite or possible career potential—about 71 percent of the men in professional occupations compared with 41 percent of those in other occupations. Among women, the differences were much wider: 71 percent of the professional workers (practically all teachers), compared with 17 percent of the others.

Jobs assessed as having definite or possible career potential tended to have higher annual rates of pay than those which were taken as stopgaps.

The degree recipients were asked how the earnings received on their first jobs compared with the earnings they expected at the time they received their degrees.

Very few of the degree recipients said their earnings were higher than they expected, but substantial proportions said they were lower:

	Both sexes	*Male*	*Female*
Total (percent)	100	100	100
Substantially lower	32	28	36
Somewhat lower	23	25	20
About the same	35	35	36
Somewhat higher	9	10	8
Substantially higher	1	1	—

Of the men with earnings under $6,000, 92 percent said their earnings were less than they had expected, compared with 36 percent of those earning $6,000 or more. Among women, the comparable proportions were 84 and 29 percent.

Among the 1,025,000 men and women employed in October, almost three-fourths had had only one job. Three-fourths of those in professional occupations were still in their first jobs, compared with 60 percent of those in all other occupations. And, among those who were no longer on their first jobs, over 40 percent had worked in those jobs only a short time—3 months or less. The length of time in the first jobs tended to have been longer if the jobs were in degree-related work than if not.

About 7 out of 10 said the main reason for leaving the first job had to do with the job itself (got a better job, laid off, training not used, unsatisfactory working conditions, did not like the work, pay too

Table 4. Length of time degree recipients who had at least one job looked for first job, by sex and major field of study

Percent distribution]

Unemployment experience	Total	Sex		Field of study			
		Men	Women	Business or commerce	Education	Humanities	Social sciences
Total employed:							
Number (thousands)	1,106	634	472	187	273	157	221
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With unemployment [1]	42.8	38.3	49.0	39.4	36.3	64.5	48.7
With no unemployment	57.2	61.7	51.0	60.6	63.7	35.5	51.3
Job held before completing degree requirements	23.7	27.9	17.8	30.9	27.4	14.2	17.1
Job arranged for before completing degree requirements	25.4	26.0	24.5	21.2	29.8	13.5	23.5
Job obtained without looking	8.1	7.7	8.7	8.5	6.5	7.8	10.7
With unemployment: [1]							
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	(2)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks	48.1	51.4	44.6	.....	52.2	36.3	48.4
Less than 2 weeks	15.4	15.1	15.7	.....	16.7	9.9	12.1
2 to 4 weeks	32.7	36.2	28.9	.....	35.6	26.4	36.3
5 to 14 weeks	37.0	32.6	41.7	.....	38.9	41.8	34.1
15 weeks or more	14.9	16.1	13.7	.....	8.9	22.0	17.6
15 to 26 weeks	8.3	10.1	6.4	.....	3.3	17.6	7.7
27 weeks or more	6.6	6.0	7.4	.....	5.6	4.4	9.9

[1] Persons who looked for a job after completing degree requirements.

[2] Percent not shown where base is less than 75,000.

Table 5. Method by which first job was found, by sex, field of study, and occupation

[Percent distribution]

Method	Total	Sex		Field of study				Occupation			
								Professional			Other
		Men	Women	Business or commerce	Education	Humanities	Social sciences	Total	Teachers, except college	All other	
Total: Number (thousands[1])	872	476	396	136	207	137	189	532	248	284	340
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
School placement office or professor	17.6	20.8	13.8	20.7	15.5	10.9	12.2	23.2	19.7	26.3	.3
Professional periodicals or organizations	1.8	2.5	.8	.....	.5	.....	.6	3.2	.5	5.5	.....
Civil service application	3.6	4.4	2.8	4.1	2.1	.8	8.3	4.1	1.4	6.4	3.0
Public employment service	1.5	1.8	1.1	5.8	.5	.8	.6	.7	.....	1.3	3.3
Private employment agency	3.6	3.0	4.4	5.0	3.7	4.2	5.6	1.8	2.4	1.3	7.1
Newspaper advertisement	3.9	3.5	4.4	2.5	2.1	5.0	7.2	1.8	1.4	2.1	7.8
Direct application to employer	41.4	34.2	50.0	31.4	55.6	42.0	37.8	47.3	64.4	32.2	33.1
Friends or relatives	21.3	23.6	18.5	24.0	18.7	29.4	20.6	14.2	7.7	19.9	30.1
Other	5.3	6.2	4.1	6.6	1.1	6.7	7.2	3.8	2.4	5.1	6.3

[1] Excludes persons whose first job was a continuation of one they held while completing requirements for degree.

low). Too low pay was cited by fewer than 3 percent, although in assessing earnings in comparison with their expectations before starting the job search, a majority had said earnings were substantially or somewhat lower. Half of the rest gave personal or family reasons—predictably, women more than men.

The employed, October 1971

Most of the degree recipients employed in October 1971 were wage and salary workers, and were working full time. Men and women were about equally likely to be doing so, among both the baccalaureates and those with higher degrees. Only about 10 percent were part-time workers.

By occupation. Although a similar proportion of men and women—about 7 out of 10 in each group—were employed in professional and technical occupations, women tended to be more concentrated by occupation than men. Half of all the employed women compared with about a fifth of the men were teaching at the elementary or secondary school level. The only other professional occupation group with as many as 5 percent of the employed women was health and medical workers. Among men, three professional occupation groups (in addition to teachers below the college level) had at least 5 percent—college teachers, engineers, and health and medical workers.

The proportion of women in clerical occupations (18 percent) was more than twice that of men (7 percent). Men were more likely than women to be in sales and blue-collar occupations. Among the clerical workers, about a third of the women were secretaries and stenographers, but none of the men.

Some occupational concentration is apparent by field of study. For both men and women, those who had majored in education had the largest single occupational concentration, with roughly 8 out of 10 each in teaching jobs. The only other occupation groups with any appreciable numbers of the education majors were, among men, the sales group, and among women, the clerical group.

Men who majored in business or commerce were most likely to be sales workers, accountants, or clerical workers. Those who majored in social sciences were most likely to be teachers, clerical workers, and service workers. Among men, about 90 percent of those with majors in education, and about 40 percent each of those with majors in business and the social sciences were in professional occupations.

Women who majored in the humanities were about as likely to be in clerical jobs as in teaching (roughly 40 percent each). Among those who majored in social sciences, about 25 percent were social workers and about 20 percent each were in teaching and clerical occupations. Of those with majors in education, about 9 out of 10 were in professional occupations, compared with 6 out of 10 of those with majors in the social sciences and the humanities.

Overall, 58 percent of those employed in October

1971 were in work directly related to their major field of study, with no significant difference between men and women. Some of the men and women who were in work not directly related to their fields in their first jobs had changed to jobs in related work, so that the proportion in related work had increased by 9 percentage points by October. About two-thirds of the employed men in jobs not directly related to their fields of study took them through choice, for such reasons as better opportunity for advancement than in their field, not wanting to work in their field, or wanting to see whether they liked the kind of work. Among women, fewer than two-fifths were in such jobs through choice. For men, the proportion in work which was not directly related to their field of study who took their jobs through choice was greater in the October job than in the first job; for women, there was no change.

Among those in professional, technical, and kindred occupations, about 75 percent were in directly related work, again with no significant difference between men and women.

Since college education is primarily oriented toward the professions, it is not surprising that, among the 30 percent of the employed who were in nonprofessional occupations, relatively few—about 1 in 6—were in work which they considered directly related to their field of study. Men in nonprofessional occupations were twice as likely as women to be in directly related work.

By industry. Service industries were the major employers of both men and women—almost half the men and 8 out of 10 women. These proportions are linked to the large numbers in teaching jobs. Educational services accounted for the largest proportion in the services group, as well as overall, among both men and women.

Earnings in October 1971 job

Among full-time workers, the median annual rate of pay for baccalaureates was $7,045 compared with $10,250 for those with advanced degrees. A large proportion of those with advanced degrees had been employed while completing degree requirements and thus were earning more than persons just starting to work. Among baccalaureates employed full time, the median annual rate of pay for men was about $1,000 higher than for women.

The number of men and women with advanced degrees is too small for deriving reliable estimates of variations in their pay rates, and the following discussion is limited to baccalaureates who were full-time workers in their October jobs, unless otherwise indicated.

Practically all were wage and salary workers. Men baccalaureates were about twice as likely to be in private industry as in government. More than half the women baccalaureates (about 58 percent) were in government, again because of the large number teaching in elementary and secondary schools. Annual rates of pay for male full-time workers were considerably higher in private industry than in government, with 50 percent of those in private industry earning $8,000 or more compared with 23 percent of those in government. For women, the earnings situation was reversed—48 percent of those in government were earning at least $7,000 a year, compared with 23 percent of those in private industry.

Occupation of employment. Among male baccalaureates working full time in professional occupations, those teaching at the elementary or secondary school level were, on average, earning considerably less than those in other professional and technical occupations. About 12 percent of the teachers had annual rates of $8,000 or more, mostly in the $8,000–8,999 range. Among the other professional workers, 60 percent earned at least $8,000, and the majority of these were earning $10,000 or more. About 35 percent of the men in nonprofessional occupations had earnings of $8,000 or more.

The earnings picture for women baccalaureates employed full time was quite different, reflecting the large proportion of teachers. Only minimal proportions of women earned $8,000 or more, and comparisons among them are more practicable at the $7,000 cutoff. The proportion of women in professional occupations who earned $7,000 or more a year was more than 4 times that of women in nonprofessional occupations.

In comparing men's and women's earnings, an important consideration is the extent to which earnings are concentrated around the cutoff point. Of the 48 percent of professional women who earned $7,000 or more, a majority were at the threshold of the cutoff point, that is, in the $7,000 to $7,999 interval. Among men earning $8,000 or more, relatively few professional and technical workers with annual rates of at least $8,000 were at the threshold ($8,000 to $8,999).

Industry of employment. Both men and women baccalaureates employed full time were more likely to

work in the service industries than in any other of the broad industry groups—about a third of the men and three-fourths of the women. For men, annual rates of pay in service industries were lower than in all other industries combined. About 28 percent in the service industries and 49 percent in all other industries combined had annual rates of $8,000 or more.

Because of the heavy weighting of women baccalaureates in the service industries, annual rates of pay for all women reflected those of women in the services group—mainly teachers in educational services. Roughly 4 out of every 10 women in the service industry were in jobs with annual rates of $7,000 or more, the same proportion as for women in all industries combined.

Major field of study. Overall, both men and women in work directly related to their major field of study tended to have higher rates of pay, on average, than those who were not in directly related work. These were of course the most likely to be in professional occupation. Of all men employed full time in directly related work, about 6 out of 10 were earning at least $8,000, compared with about 4 out of 10 of those in work not directly related. For the women, about 60 percent of those in directly related work and 20 percent of those in work not directly related earned $7,000 or more.

Among all the degree recipients employed full time who were in work not directly related to their major field of study, annual rates of pay tended to be sharply lower for those who took the job because it was the only one available than among those who took the job through choice or preference on the score of better pay than work in their field, not wanting to work in their field, and so on. About a third of those who said the job they had in October was the only one they could find were earning $7,000 or more, compared with more than half of the others. If $8,000 is used as the cutoff, 4 times as many of those who took their jobs through choice as of those for whom the jobs were the only ones they could find were earning at least $8,000.

Job assessment

How did the degree recipients assess their jobs at the time of taking them? Overall, about 7 out of 10 of employed men and women assessed their October jobs as having career potential. Almost half of those in professional and technical occupations saw definite career potential at the time they took the jobs, and one-third possible career potential. In contrast, among clerical workers, only 11 percent felt their jobs had definite career potential and 22 percent possible career potential. Clerical workers were 3 times as likely as professional workers to assess the job as something to work in until they were able to get a better job. Overall, one-half of the degree recipients in other than professional occupations looked at their jobs as stopgaps, nearly 3 times the proportion in the professional group.

Eighty percent of both men and women in professional occupations considered their jobs to have career potential. In all other occupations combined, men were more than twice as likely as women (57 and 25 percent) to respond this way.

As might be expected, the relationship of the work to field of study was highly correlated with assessment of the job as having career potential. Close to 9 out of 10 of the degree recipients employed in October in directly related work assessed their jobs as having definite or possible career potential, compared with 6 out of 10 of those who were in somewhat related work. Only about 1 in 4 of those who were in work not related to their field of study assessed the jobs as having career potential.

In directly related work, women were as likely as men to assess their jobs as having career potential. However, in work not directly related, they were considerably less likely than men to assess jobs as having career potential.

Not surprisingly, men and women in jobs assessed as having career potential were earning more, on average, than those in jobs assessed as stopgaps.

Job changers among the employed

Among the men and women who were employed in October, more than a fourth (275,000) had had at least two jobs. About 4 out of 10 had first jobs which they had obtained before completing degree requirements and about 1 in 10 had gotten their jobs without having to look. The other half had been unemployed for a while after completing requirements before getting their first job. Among those with unemployment, about half had been unemployed for 4 weeks or less.

Experience with respect to obtaining the jobs held in October was very similar to that on the first job. About 45 percent had arranged for their October jobs before leaving their previous jobs, and about 7

percent had obtained them without having to look.

A third of those who changed jobs said their main reason was to take better jobs, and 1 out of 6 said they had been laid off. Other job-connected reasons, such as unsatisfactory working conditions, training not used, not liking the work, and low pay, accounted for more than half of the rest. Among this group, as among all first-job leavers, too low pay was not frequently cited. Women were much more likely than men to have left their first jobs for personal or family reasons or because of not liking the work, but layoff was more common among the men.

Although low pay was not often given as the main reason for leaving, job changing seems to have had some beneficial effect on the annual rate of earnings for those who were full-time workers in both first and October jobs. In their first jobs, half of these full-time workers were earning less than $6,000; in their October jobs, fewer than one-fifth.

Almost 70 percent of these full-time workers among job changers had moved to jobs with annual rates of pay in earnings intervals higher than those of their first jobs. The proportion with increased earnings is probably even higher, since, among those in the same earnings interval on both the first and October jobs, the likelihood of an increase within the interval was at least as great as, if not greater than, the likelihood of a decrease. For an appreciable number (about 37 percent), the job changing had been from work unrelated to their major field of study to related work, and earnings tend to be higher for those in directly related work. Fewer than 1 out of 10 had changed from directly related work to work not directly related.

The unemployed, October 1971

Among the 82,000 degree recipients who were unemployed as of October 1971, almost 9 out of 10 were baccalaureates and about 6 out of 10 were age 22 to 24, largely because these groups were the largest among the recipient group. There were no significant differences in the proportions unemployed by year of graduation, type of degree, or major field of study. Slightly more than one-half of the unemployed had not worked since completing degree requirements, in part because many of the 1971 graduates had only recently entered the job market.

Roughly one-third of the unemployed degree recipients had been out of work for less than 5 weeks, and about the same proportion for 15 weeks or more. The majority of the degree recipients unemployed 5 weeks or more attributed the length of their unemployment mainly to unavailability of jobs.

The unemployed averaged four methods of looking for work; the most frequently used were direct application to employers, newspaper advertisements, school placement offices, and friends or relatives. About 5 out of 10 said they were not restricting their search to work in their major field of study, and about the same proportion said they would be willing to move to other areas to obtain work. About a fifth of the unemployed said they had turned down a job offer since starting their current job search. Rates of pay wanted by the jobseekers were generally not out of line with the earnings of the employed.

Out of the labor force, October 1971

Most of the 85,000 men and women who were neither working nor looking for work as of the survey date were baccalaureates. They were about equally divided between those who had had at least one job since completing degree requirements and those who had not worked at all. There was no significant difference in the proportions of nonparticipants with majors in the various fields of study, or from the 1970 or 1971 groups. Women were somewhat more likely than men to be neither working nor looking for work.

Of those who were not in the labor force, about two-fifths (mostly women) gave family responsibilities as the main reason Most of the rest, in about equal proportions, cited imminent entry into the Armed Forces, not wanting to work, or plans to continue their education. Very few gave illness or disability or inability to find work as the reason.

Some implications

The experience of the last several years has raised serious questions about the supply and demand aspects of higher education. Are the current difficulties of the college-educated in the job market a temporary phenomenon, or do they signal a continuing and worsening problem of oversupply?

Is the problem a matter of demand shifting from some fields to others, rather than of generally slackening demand for the college-educated? If so, are institutions of higher learning flexible enough to adapt their curricula and faculties to these changing patterns?

Projection of recent educational trends indicates that, by 1980, earned college degrees may increase by more than half over their current levels.[5] Should the Government step in as a "holding agency," to insure a supply of college-educated men and women for future needs? How much can—or should—the Government do, beyond the type of guidance exerted by grants programs, to steer potential college students into desired fields of study? Who would determine—and how—just what are the future needs, and the desired fields? And would this entail the Government's guaranteeing to all college graduates a job in work related to their field of study, regardless of what fields of study the students choose to pursue or what levels of competence they possess?

Or will college graduates, even as other workers, have to adapt to the normal pattern of a free labor market—in which some time is required for workers and jobs to come together, and in which selectivity on the demand side is very much in evidence?

Data from the survey reported here point to what may be imbalances in supply and demand. In their first jobs, about half of the employed degree recipients were working in jobs not directly related to their major field of study, most often because those were the only jobs they could find. On the other hand, despite the relatively short period involved here, a large number of those who were originally in entirely unrelated work changed to jobs in work related to their field of study, and about 70 percent of the employed assessed their jobs as having career potential.

The survey data indicate that the unemployment rate of these graduates did not compare unfavorably with that of all men and women of comparable ages, notwithstanding the graduates' generally more recent entry into the labor force.[6] Also, about half the graduates who had some period of unemployment before getting their first jobs were unemployed for less than a month. And some, particularly among the men, voluntarily went into work unrelated to their fields of study.

The concentration of degree recipients, particularly women, in relatively few fields of study may indicate one kind of supply problem. More active policies may be necessary to point the way to occupations which show promise of increase demand, such as health occupations, or to educate the public and employers, as well as workers themselves, away from acceptance of occupational segregation by sex.

In the nearer term, the outlook for young college graduates may be brighter than the current picture indicates. During the 10-year period ending in 1975, the number of men and women age 35 to 44 will drop by about 7 percent and the number age 45 to 54 will increase by only about 8 percent. These are the ages from which management executives are drawn to a large extent. Business and government will probably have to draw upon younger workers, particularly the college-educated 25- to 34-year-olds, for more of their management staff. However, this early movement into managerial levels may only complicate the situation for the next generation of college graduates. □

FOOTNOTES

[1] For purposes of this survey, the *first job* was defined as the first civilian job worked in, for pay or profit, either full or part time, for 2 weeks or more, after completing degree requirements, or, a civilian job which the degree recipient was working in at the time of completing degree requirements and in which he continued working for 4 months or more after completion of degree requirements.

[2] Main reasons for taking jobs in which the work was not directly related to the major field of study included:

Main reasons given	*Percent*
Only job I could find	56
Better pay	3
Better opportunity for advancement than in my field	6
To see if I liked this kind of work	10
Opportunity to help people or be useful to society	5
Did not want to work in my field	5
Wanted to work in manual occupation	1
Other miscellaneous	15

All but the first (only job I could find) are interpreted here to represent choice or preference.

[3] Some of these may have started job hunting while still in school; only the time following completion of degree requirements is included here.

[4] Includes those who, as of October 1971, were still working in jobs they held while completing degree requirements, those who arranged for their first jobs before completing degree requirements, and those who obtained their first jobs without looking for them.

[5] *Projections of Educational Statistics to 1979–80*, 1970 edition (Washington, National Center for Educational Statistics, 1970).

[6] This is true even after making allowance for the fact that many of the advanced degree recipients employed in October were in career-ladder jobs they held while completing requirements for their latest degrees. If they are excluded, the unemployment rate for the rest is somewhat higher.

Appendix

This report contains, in addition to the article from the February 1973 issue of the Monthly Labor Review, the following material:

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Explanatory note

ESTIMATES in this report are based on data obtained from a questionnaire supplement to the October 1971 Current Population Survey of the labor force, conducted and tabulated for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of the Census and financed by the Manpower Administration of the Department of Labor. The basic labor force concepts, sample design, estimating methods, and reliability of the data are described briefly in the material which follows. 1/ A reproduction of the questionnaire used in the survey is appended for reference.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Population Coverage. Each month trained interviewers collect information from a sample of about 50,000 households located in 449 areas in 863 counties and independent cities, with coverage in 50 States and the District of Columbia. The estimates in this report include persons 18 to 34 years of age in the civilian noninstitutional population in the calendar week ended October 16, 1971 who had completed requirements for and received baccalaureate, first professional, or advanced degrees from a college or university in 1970 or between January and the survey data in October 1971, and were not enrolled full time in a college or university for further study. The civilian noninstitutional population excludes all members of the Armed Forces and inmates of institutions. For the purposes of this study, persons enrolled in school for fewer than 12 hours of classes during an average school week were classified as not in college full time.

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Color. The term "color" refers to the division of the population into two groups--"white" and "Negro and other races." Other races include American Indians, Japanese, and Chinese, and any other race except white and Negro.

Civilian Labor Force, October 1971. The civilian labor force comprises the total of all civilian persons classified as employed or unemployed according to the definitions below.

Employed, October 1971. Employed persons are all those who, during the survey week, (a) did any work at all as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family, or (b) did not work but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute, or for personal reasons, whether or not they were paid by their employers for the time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs.

Unemployed, October 1971. Unemployed persons are all those who did not work during the survey week and reported that they were looking for work.

Not in the Civilian Labor Force, October 1971. All persons not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as not in labor force. Persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours a week) are also classified as not in the labor force.

First Job. For the purposes of this report, the first civilian job worked at after completion of degree requirements is:

1. A job held while completing degree requirements at which the degree recipient was still employed as of the survey date; or

2. A job held while completing degree requirements at which the degree recipient worked for at least 4 months after completing requirements, but which was not held at the survey date; or

3. For persons not included above, the first job started after completing degree requirements at which they worked for pay or profit, either full or part time for 2 weeks or more. This job may or may not still have been held as of the survey date.

October 1971 Job. The job in which the degree recipient was employed during the survey week. For those persons employed in October 1971 who had only one job since completion of degree requirements, the first and October jobs were the same.

Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker. The occupation, industry, and class of worker refer to the first job held after completion of degree requirements or the job held as of the survey date in October 1971, as indicated. The job of a person holding more than one job at either point in time is the job at which he worked the greatest number of hours. For example, if a degree recipient worked at more than one job during the survey week, his occupation, industry, and class of worker for the October job are those of the job in which he worked the most hours during the survey week. The occupation and industry groups used are defined as in the 1970 Census of Population. Information on the detailed categories included in these groups is available upon request.

Full-Time and Part-Time Workers. Full-time workers are persons who usually worked 35 hours or more per week. Part-time workers are persons who usually worked 1 to 34 hours.

Duration of Unemployment, October 1971. Duration of unemployment represents the length of time (through the current survey week) during which persons classified as unemployed had been continuously looking for work. For persons on layoff, duration of unemployment represents the number of full weeks since the termination of their most recent employment. A period of two weeks or more during which a person was employed or ceased looking for work is considered to break the continuity of the present period of seeking work.

Weeks Looked for First Job. Includes only weeks looked for work after completing requirements for degree.

Weeks Looked for Job Held in October 1971. For persons still employed on first job, includes only weeks looked for work after completing requirements for degree. For persons employed at a job different from their first job, the period includes all weeks looked for the October job before starting to work at that job.

Sums of Distributions. Sums of individual items--whether absolute numbers or percentages--may not equal totals because of independent rounding of totals and components. Distributions are based on the number of persons reporting the given measure.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Estimating Procedure. The estimating procedure used in this survey inflates weighted sample results to independent estimates of civilian noninstitutional population by age, color, and sex. These independent estimates are based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population and other data on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration, and strength of the Armed Forces.

Variability. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules and procedures. As in any survey, the results are also subject to errors of response and reporting. These may be relatively large in the case of persons with irregular attachment to the labor force.

The standard error is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that might occur by chance because only a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

Table 1 and 2 show approximations of the standard errors in this survey. They should be interpreted as indicators of the order of magnitude of the standard error rather than a precise standard error for any specific item.

The following example illustrates their use. About 1,106,000 of the degree recipients were in the labor force as of October 1971. Table 1 shows the standard error on this estimate to be approximately 47,000. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that the difference between the sample estimate and a complete census count is less than 47,000. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the difference would have been less than 94,000.

These 1,106,000 degree recipients in the labor force represented 92.9 percent of the 1,191,000 degree recipients in the civilian noninstitutional population. Table 2 shows the standard error of 92.9 percent with a base of

1,191,000 to be about 1.1 percent. Consequently, the chances are 2 out of 3 that a complete census count would disclose the figure to be between 91.8 and 94.0 percent, and 19 out of 20 that the figure would have been between 90.7 and 95.1 percent.

The reliability of an estimated percentage that is based on sample data for both numerator and denominator depends upon the size of the percentage and the size of the total upon which the percentage is based. Estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates of the numerators of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is large (50 percent or greater).

1/ For a more complete description of the methodology, see Concepts and Methods Used in Manpower Statistics from the Current Population Survey, (BLS Report No. 313).

Table 1. Standard error of estimated number of persons

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated number of persons	Standard error
5,000	3,200
10,000	4,500
25,000	7,100
50,000	10,000
75,000	12,000
100,000	14,000
250,000	23,000
500,000	32,000
750,000	39,000
1,000,000	45,000
1,500,000	55,000

Table 2. Standard error of estimated percentages

(68 chances out of 100)

Estimated percentage	Base of percentage (thousands)								
	25	50	75	100	250	500	750	1,000	1,500
1 or 99	2.9	2.0	1.7	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
2 or 98	4.1	2.8	2.3	2.0	1.3	.9	.7	.6	.5
5 or 95	6.4	4.4	3.6	3.1	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	.8
10 or 90	8.8	6.1	5.0	4.3	2.8	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.2
15 or 85	10.4	7.2	5.9	5.1	3.3	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.4
20 or 80	11.7	8.1	6.7	5.7	3.7	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.6
25 or 75	12.6	8.8	7.2	6.2	4.0	2.8	2.3	2.0	1.7
35 or 65	13.9	9.7	7.9	6.9	4.4	3.1	2.5	2.2	1.9
50	14.6	10.2	8.3	7.2	4.6	3.2	2.6	2.3	1.9

O.M.B. No. 41-S71094
Approval Expires December 31, 1972

CPS-604 (9-71)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, D.C. 20233

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear

The U.S. Department of Labor has asked the Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the employment problems faced by persons who received college or professional degrees in 1970 or 1971. This information will be of value in planning employment programs dealing with the transition from college to career.

You are asked to answer the questions on the inside of this form and mail the completed form within FIVE DAYS in the enclosed envelope. Since this study is based on a scientific sample of the total population, it is important that each person return a completed questionnaire.

Your report to the Census Bureau is confidential by law (Title 13, United States Code). It may be seen only by sworn Census employees and may be used only for statistical purposes.

Your cooperation in both this and our Current Population Survey is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Brown

GEORGE H. BROWN
Director
Bureau of the Census

Enclosure

CENSUS USE ONLY							
Interviewer code	CC6	CC13	CC18	CC20 1 ☐ W 2 ☐ N 3 ☐ O	CC21 1 ☐ M 2 ☐ F	FE	NR

FORM CPS-494 (9-14-71)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

SURVEY OF RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES

1. In what year did you receive your most recent college or graduate degree?

1 ☐ 1971
0 ☐ 1970 } GO to Q. 2
x ☐ Before 1970 – *END QUESTIONS*

2. What degree did you receive at that time? *(If more than one, please indicate the highest.)*

1 ☐ Bachelor's (any field)
2 ☐ Master's (any field)
3 ☐ Ph.D. (any field)
4 ☐ Medicine (M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., etc.)
5 ☐ Law (L.L.B., or J.D.)
6 ☐ Other – *Specify* →

3. What was your major field of study? *(Mark one only)*

01 ☐ Agriculture or forestry
02 ☐ Biological sciences
03 ☐ Business or commerce
04 ☐ Education
05 ☐ Engineering
06 ☐ English or journalism
07 ☐ Other humanities (fine and applied arts, foreign languages, philosophy, religion, etc.)
08 ☐ Health and medical professions
09 ☐ Law
10 ☐ Mathematics or statistics
11 ☐ Physical or earth sciences
12 ☐ Social sciences (psychology, history, public administration, political science, economics, sociology, etc.)
13 ☐ Other – *Specify* →

4. In the first column please indicate where you lived during the last year you were working toward this degree. In the second column indicate where you live at present. *(Mark one box in each column)*

	Year before receiving degree	At present
SAME COUNTY AS PARENTS:		
Same household as parents	1 ☐	1 ☐
With other relatives (including spouse)	2 ☐	2 ☐
In college housing (dorms, fraternities, sororities)	3 ☐	3 ☐
Someplace else	4 ☐	4 ☐
DIFFERENT COUNTY FROM PARENTS (OR PARENTS NOT LIVING):		
With other relatives	5 ☐	5 ☐
In college housing	6 ☐	6 ☐
Someplace else	7 ☐	7 ☐

5. Were you working at a job at the time you completed requirements for your latest degree?

1 ☐ Yes – Still working at that job – *SKIP* to Q. 21
2 ☐ Yes – Not working at that job now – GO to Q. 6
3 ☐ No – *SKIP* to Q. 8

6. How long did you work at that job after completing requirements for your latest degree?

1 ☐ 3 months or less – GO to Q. 7
2 ☐ 4 months or more – *SKIP* to Q. 9

7. Have you worked at a job since that time?

1 ☐ Yes – *SKIP* to Q. 9
2 ☐ No – *SKIP* to Q. 19

8. Since completing requirements, have you worked for pay or profit at a civilian job or business, either full- or part-time, for two weeks or more?

1 ☐ Yes – GO to Q. 9
2 ☐ No – *SKIP* to Q. 19

9. We would like to find out about the first job you held after completing requirements for your latest degree. *(If you entered 4 months or more in item 6, describe the job you held at the time you completed requirements for your degree.)*

a. For whom did you work? *(Name of company, business, organization, or other employer)*

b. What kind of business or industry was this? *(For example: accounting firm, public school, TV manufacturer)*

c. What kind of work were you doing? *(For example: accountant, teacher, electrical engineer)*

d. Were you:

1 ☐ **An employee of a private business, for wages, salary, or commission?**
2 ☐ **Self-employed in own business?**
3 ☐ **A government employee?**

e. Did you usually work 35 hours or more a week at this job?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

10. Which statement best describes how you regarded your first job at the time you accepted it? *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Temporary job until a better one could be found
2 ☐ Temporary job while waiting to report to a new job
3 ☐ Temporary job to earn money to do something else, e.g., travel, school, have free time, or some other purpose
4 ☐ Job to earn money while I decided what kind of work I wanted
5 ☐ Job with possible career potential
6 ☐ Job with definite career potential
7 ☐ Other – *Specify* →

11. What was your annual rate of earnings, before deductions, on your first job?

01 ☐	Under $3,000	07 ☐	$8,000 – $8,999
02 ☐	$3,000 – $3,999	08 ☐	9,000 – 9,999
03 ☐	4,000 – 4,999	09 ☐	10,000 – 10,999
04 ☐	5,000 – 5,999	10 ☐	11,000 – 12,999
05 ☐	6,000 – 6,999	11 ☐	13,000 – 14,999
06 ☐	7,000 – 7,999	12 ☐	15,000 or more

12. How did these earnings compare with earnings you expected when you received your degree?

1 ☐ Substantially lower
2 ☐ Somewhat lower
3 ☐ About the same
4 ☐ Somewhat higher
5 ☐ Substantially higher

13. How did you find your first job? *(Mark one only)*

01 ☐ Employed at first job while completing requirements for degree – *GO to Q. 13a*
02 ☐ School placement office or professor
03 ☐ Professional periodicals or organizations
04 ☐ Civil Service application
05 ☐ Public employment service
06 ☐ Private employment agency
07 ☐ Newspaper advertisement
08 ☐ Direct application to employers
09 ☐ Friends or relatives
10 ☐ Other – Specify →

SKIP to Q. 14

13a. Was your work on that job related to your major field of study?

1 ☐ Directly related
2 ☐ Somewhat related
3 ☐ Not related at all

SKIP to Q. 17

14. After completing requirements for your degree, how long did you look for work before obtaining your first job?

1 ☐ Obtained job before completing requirements
2 ☐ Obtained job without looking
3 ☐ 1 week or less
4 ☐ 2–4 weeks

SKIP to Q. 15

5 ☐ 5–9 weeks
6 ☐ 10–14 weeks
7 ☐ 15–26 weeks
8 ☐ 27 weeks or more

GO to Q. 14a

14a. What was the MAIN reason it took that long to find your first job? *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Available jobs not related to field of study
2 ☐ Low pay in available jobs
3 ☐ No jobs available
4 ☐ Unsatisfactory working conditions, location, etc.
5 ☐ Did not like kind of work available
6 ☐ Other – Specify →

15. Was your work on your first job related to your major field of study?

1 ☐ Directly related – *SKIP to Q. 17*
2 ☐ Somewhat related
3 ☐ Not related at all

GO to Q. 16

16. What was the MAIN reason you took a job not directly related to your field? *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Only job I could find
2 ☐ Better pay than a job in my field
3 ☐ Better opportunity for advancement than in my field
4 ☐ To see if I liked this kind of work
5 ☐ Opportunity to help people or be useful to society
6 ☐ Did not want to work in my field
7 ☐ Wanted to work in manual occupation
8 ☐ Other – Specify →

17. How long did you work at that job?

1 ☐ Still working at that job – *END QUESTIONS*
2 ☐ Not still working at that job – *INDICATE DURATION* →
1 ☐ Less than 2 months
2 ☐ 2–3 months
3 ☐ 4–6 months
4 ☐ 7–11 months
5 ☐ 1 year or more

GO to Q. 18

18. What was the MAIN reason you left your first j[illegible]? *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Did not make use of my training
2 ☐ Laid off or job ended
3 ☐ Personal or family reasons
4 ☐ Unsatisfactory working conditions (hours, location, etc.)
5 ☐ Did not like kind of work
6 ☐ Returned to school
7 ☐ Low pay
8 ☐ Got a better job
9 ☐ Other – Specify →

19. Are you currently: *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ **Working?** – *GO to Q. 20*
2 ☐ **Not working but looking for work?** – *SKIP to Q. 26, page 4*
3 ☐ **Neither working nor looking for work?** – *SKIP to Q. 36, page 4*

20. How long did you look for work before obtaining your current job?

1 ☐ Obtained job before leaving previous employer
2 ☐ Obtained job without looking
3 ☐ 1 week or less
4 ☐ 2–4 weeks

SKIP to Q. 21

5 ☐ 5–9 weeks
6 ☐ 10–14 weeks
7 ☐ 15–26 weeks
8 ☐ 27 weeks or more

GO to Q. 20a

20a. What was the MAIN reason it took that long to find your current job? *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Available jobs not related to field of study
2 ☐ Low pay in available jobs
3 ☐ No jobs available
4 ☐ Unsatisfactory working conditions, location, etc.
5 ☐ Did not like kind of work available
6 ☐ Other – Specify →

21. Description of current job or business

a. For whom do you work? *(Name of company, business, organization or other employer)*

b. What kind of business or industry is this? *(For example: accounting firm, public school, TV manufacturer)*

c. What kind of work are you doing? *(For example: accountant, teacher, electrical engineer)*

d. Are you:

1 ☐ **An employee of a private business for wages, salary or commission?**
2 ☐ **Self-employed in own business?**
3 ☐ **A government employee?**

e. Do you usually work 35 hours or more a week at this job?

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

(Continue on page 4)

22. **Which statement best describes how you regarded your present job at the time you accepted it?** *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Temporary job until a better one could be found
2 ☐ Temporary job while waiting to report to a new job
3 ☐ Temporary job to earn money to do something else, e.g., travel, school, have free time or some other purpose
4 ☐ Job to earn money while I decided what kind of work I wanted
5 ☐ Job with possible career potential
6 ☐ Job with definite career potential
7 ☐ Other – Specify →

23. **What is your current annual rate of earnings, before deductions, on this job?**

01 ☐	Under $3,000	07 ☐	$8,000 – $8,999
02 ☐	$3,000 – $3,999	08 ☐	9,000 – 9,999
03 ☐	4,000 – 4,999	09 ☐	10,000 – 10,999
04 ☐	5,000 – 5,999	10 ☐	11,000 – 12,999
05 ☐	6,000 – 6,999	11 ☐	13,000 – 14,999
06 ☐	7,000 – 7,999	12 ☐	15,000 or more

24. **Is your work on this job related to your major field of study?**

1 ☐ Directly related – *END QUESTIONS*
2 ☐ Somewhat related } *GO to Q. 25*
3 ☐ Not related at all }

25. **What was the MAIN reason you took a job not directly related to your field?** *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Only job I could find
2 ☐ Better pay than a job in my field
3 ☐ Better opportunity for advancement than in my field
4 ☐ To see if I liked this kind of work
5 ☐ Opportunity to help people or be useful to society
6 ☐ Did not want to work in my field
7 ☐ Wanted to work in manual occupation
8 ☐ Other – Specify →

END QUESTIONS

26. **How long have you been looking for work?**

1 ☐ 1 week or less } *SKIP to Q. 27*
2 ☐ 2–4 weeks }
3 ☐ 5–9 weeks
4 ☐ 10–14 weeks
5 ☐ 15–26 weeks } *GO to Q. 26a*
6 ☐ 27 weeks or more

26a. **What is the MAIN reason you have not been able to find a job?** *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Available jobs not related to field of study
2 ☐ Low pay in available jobs
3 ☐ No jobs available
4 ☐ Unsatisfactory working conditions, location, etc.
5 ☐ Do not like kind of work available
6 ☐ Other – Specify →

27. **Since completing all requirements for your latest degree, how many jobs have you held?**

1 ☐ More than one job – *GO to Q. 28*
2 ☐ Only one job } *SKIP to Q. 29*
3 ☐ Never worked }

28. **What was the MAIN reason you left your latest job?** *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Did not make use of my training
2 ☐ Laid off or job ended
3 ☐ Personal or family reasons
4 ☐ Unsatisfactory working conditions (hours, location, etc.)
5 ☐ Did not like kind of work
6 ☐ Returned to school
7 ☐ Low pay
8 ☐ Other – Specify →

29. **Are you looking for a full-time or part-time job?**

1 ☐ Full-time (35 hours or more per week)
2 ☐ Part-time (under 35 hours)

30. **What is the lowest annual rate of pay you will accept?**

01 ☐	Under $3,000	07 ☐	$8,000 – $8,999
02 ☐	$3,000 – $3,999	08 ☐	9,000 – 9,999
03 ☐	4,000 – 4,999	09 ☐	10,000 – 10,999
04 ☐	5,000 – 5,999	10 ☐	11,000 – 12,999
05 ☐	6,000 – 6,999	11 ☐	13,000 – 14,999
06 ☐	7,000 – 7,999	12 ☐	15,000 or more

31. **What methods have you tried to find a job?** *(Mark all that apply)*

1 ☐ School placement office or professor
2 ☐ Professional periodicals and organizations
3 ☐ Civil Service applications
4 ☐ Public employment service
5 ☐ Private employment agency
6 ☐ Newspaper advertisement
7 ☐ Direct application to employers
8 ☐ Friends or relatives
9 ☐ Other – Specify →

32. **Are you looking ONLY for work related to your major field of study?**

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

33. **Would you be willing to move to another city or community to get a job?**

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

34. **Since you started your current job search, have you turned down any job offers?**

1 ☐ Yes – *GO to Q. 35*
2 ☐ No – *END QUESTIONS*

35. **What was the MAIN reason you turned down a job?** *(If more than one offer refer to the latest.)*

1 ☐ Not related to field of study
2 ☐ Did not like kind of work
3 ☐ Low pay
4 ☐ Location unsatisfactory
5 ☐ Hours unsatisfactory
6 ☐ Other working conditions unsatisfactory
7 ☐ Other – Specify →

END QUESTIONS

36. **What is the MAIN reason you are not looking for work at this time?** *(Mark one only)*

1 ☐ Family responsibilities (including pregnancy)
2 ☐ Going to school
3 ☐ Ill or disabled
4 ☐ Cannot arrange child care
5 ☐ Could not find kind of work I wanted
6 ☐ Could not find any job
7 ☐ Waiting to enter Armed Forces
8 ☐ Do not want to work now
9 ☐ Other – Specify →

37. **Do you intend to look for work within the next 6 months?**

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ Maybe or don't know } *GO to Q. 38*
3 ☐ No – *END QUESTIONS*

38. **Do you expect to look only for a job in the field related to your most recent degree?**

1 ☐ Yes
2 ☐ No

END QUESTIONS

Supplementary tables

Table A. Relationship of work on October 1971 job to major field of study, and main reason for work not directly related to field, by selected characteristics

(Percent distribution)

Relationship and reason	Total degree recipients 1/	Sex		Type of degree		Major field of study				All other
		Men	Women	Bachelor's	All other	Business or commerce	Education	Humanities	Social sciences	
RELATIONSHIP OF WORK TO FIELD										
Total: Number (thousands)	1,024	599	425	766	258	178	258	140	198	250
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Directly related	58.1	54.5	63.3	51.9	77.1	51.2	78.2	44.9	35.3	67.8
Not directly related	41.9	45.5	36.7	48.1	22.9	48.8	21.8	55.1	64.7	32.2
Somewhat related	19.0	21.9	14.8	19.8	16.3	35.9	8.3	24.3	20.3	13.9
Not related	22.9	23.6	21.9	28.2	6.5	12.9	13.5	30.9	44.4	18.4
MAIN REASON FOR WORK NOT DIRECTLY RELATED										
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	(2/)	100.0	(2/)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Only job could find	44.2	34.0	62.3	44.3	-	37.7	-	36.8	44.2	40.3
Better opportunities for advancement than in major field	12.2	18.6	.7	12.0	-	18.2	-	10.3	11.5	8.3
To see if liked kind of work	11.7	13.4	8.7	13.7	-	15.6	-	11.8	14.2	11.1
Did not want work in field	5.7	4.0	8.7	4.8	-	-	-	11.8	8.8	5.6
All other	26.2	30.0	19.6	27.1	-	28.6	-	29.4	21.2	34.7

1/ Persons under age 35 in the civilian noninstitutional population in October 1971 who received baccalaureate or advanced degrees in 1970 or 1971 and who were not enrolled in school full time in October 1971.

2/ Percent not shown where base is less than 75,000.

Table B. Length of time employed degree recipients looked for October 1971 job, by relationship of work to major field of study

(Percent distribution)

Unemployment experience	Total	Relationship of work to field		
		Directly related	Somewhat related	Not related
Total employed: Number (thousands)	1,024	595	195	234
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
With unemployment 1/	41.4	31.3	50.8	60.0
With no unemployment	58.6	68.7	49.2	40.0
Job held before completing degree requirements	20.6	21.5	21.2	17.7
Job arranged for before completing degree requirements	18.6	22.9	15.6	9.8
Job obtained before leaving previous job	13.0	17.8	7.8	4.7
Job obtained without looking	6.5	6.6	4.5	7.9
With unemployment 1/: Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks	46.7	41.5	44.0	55.8
Less than 2 weeks	15.2	13.1	17.6	16.3
2 to 4 weeks	31.6	28.4	26.4	39.5
5 to 14 weeks	35.1	40.3	33.0	29.5
15 weeks or more	18.2	18.2	23.1	14.7
15 to 26 weeks	10.1	11.4	15.4	4.7
27 weeks or more	8.1	6.8	7.7	10.1

1/ Spent time looking for October 1971 job after receiving degree.

Table C. Annual rate of earnings of degree recipients employed full time in October 1971, by sex and type of degree

(Percent distribution)

Annual Earnings	All degree recipients			Bachelor's			Master's and Ph.D.'s
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
Total: Number (thousands)	916	550	366	684	390	294	192
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $4,000	5.3	4.1	6.9	6.6	5.0	8.7	1.1
$4,000 to $4,999	5.0	3.0	8.1	6.3	3.7	9.7	.5
$5,000 to $5,999	9.1	8.1	10.6	11.4	10.3	12.8	.5
$6,000 to $6,999	20.2	15.5	27.2	24.8	19.7	31.6	4.8
$7,000 to $7,999	20.2	16.5	25.8	23.8	21.3	27.1	10.7
$8,000 to $8,999	11.3	12.0	10.3	9.7	12.1	6.6	15.0
$9,000 to $9,999	7.0	9.0	4.2	5.4	7.9	2.1	11.8
$10,000 to $10,999	10.0	14.4	3.3	7.2	11.6	1.4	19.8
$11,000 to $12,999	6.2	8.4	2.8	2.7	4.7	-	18.2
$13,000 and over	5.7	9.0	.8	2.1	3.7	-	17.6
Median earnings	$7,522	$8,263	$6,893	$7,043	$7,552	$6,584	$10,294

Table D. Degree recipients unemployed in October 1971, by whether they worked since completing degree requirements and number of weeks unemployed

Whether worked and weeks unemployed	Total
Total unemployed: Number (thousands)	82
Percent	100.0
Worked since obtaining degree	43.2
Did not work since obtaining degree	56.8
WEEKS UNEMPLOYED	
Less than 5 weeks	30.4
5 to 9 weeks	22.8
10 to 14 weeks	15.2
15 weeks or more	31.6
15 to 26 weeks	20.3
27 weeks or more	11.4

Table E. Assessment 1/ of first and October 1971 jobs, by length of job search and sex

(Percent distribution)

Length of job search and sex	Total	Assessment of job						
		Job with definite career potential	Job with possible career potential	Temporary job				Other
				Until better one could be found	To earn money for school, travel or other purposes	To earn money while deciding kind of work wanted	While waiting to report to new job	
FIRST JOB								
Total	100.0	31.3	23.6	19.8	12.9	6.0	3.7	2.7
Did not look for work	100.0	41.9	22.2	12.2	13.6	4.3	3.4	2.5
Looked for work 2/	100.0	20.5	22.0	28.4	13.6	8.6	3.8	3.1
Looked for less than 5 weeks	100.0	21.0	22.0	24.0	14.5	11.5	6.0	1.0
Looked for 5 weeks or more	100.0	20.1	21.9	32.4	12.8	5.9	1.8	5.0
Men								
Total	100.0	32.4	24.8	18.2	12.3	7.3	2.7	2.2
Did not look for work	100.0	41.7	23.8	12.6	13.2	4.6	2.0	2.0
Looked for work 2/	100.0	19.2	22.1	28.2	12.2	12.7	3.8	1.9
Looked for less than 5 weeks	100.0	22.2	17.6	24.1	11.1	17.6	5.6	1.9
Looked for 5 weeks or more	100.0	16.2	26.7	32.4	13.3	7.6	1.9	1.9
Women								
Total	100.0	29.9	21.8	22.0	13.6	4.2	5.1	3.4
Did not look for work	100.0	42.2	19.4	11.4	14.2	3.8	5.7	3.3
Looked for work 2/	100.0	21.8	21.8	28.6	15.0	4.4	3.9	4.4
Looked for less than 5 weeks	100.0	19.6	27.2	23.9	18.5	4.3	6.5	-
Looked for 5 weeks or more	100.0	23.7	17.5	32.5	12.3	4.4	1.8	7.9
OCTOBER 1971 JOB								
Total	100.0	41.8	27.9	13.7	8.8	5.1	0.7	2.0
Did not look for work	100.0	50.4	25.5	9.1	9.8	2.9	.9	1.4
Looked for work 2/	100.0	30.1	29.6	19.9	8.2	8.7	.5	3.1
Looked for less than 5 weeks	100.0	29.0	28.4	16.9	10.9	11.5	1.1	2.2
Looked for 5 weeks or more	100.0	31.1	30.6	22.5	5.7	6.2	-	3.8
Men								
Total	100.0	43.6	27.6	12.2	8.7	5.7	1.0	1.2
Did not look for work	100.0	49.1	26.3	8.6	10.0	3.4	1.4	1.1
Looked for work 2/	100.0	33.5	27.7	18.4	8.3	10.7	.5	1.0
Looked for less than 5 weeks	100.0	31.1	23.6	18.9	11.3	13.2	.9	.9
Looked for 5 weeks or more	100.0	36.0	32.0	18.0	5.0	8.0	-	1.0
Women								
Total	100.0	39.3	28.3	15.7	9.0	4.3	0.2	3.1
Did not look for work	100.0	52.4	23.8	9.5	10.0	2.4	-	1.9
Looked for work 2/	100.0	26.6	32.1	21.2	8.2	6.5	.5	4.9
Looked for less than 5 weeks	100.0	26.0	35.1	14.3	10.4	10.4	1.3	2.6
Looked for 5 weeks or more	100.0	27.1	29.9	26.2	6.5	3.7	-	6.5

1/ Assessment at the time of accepting job.
2/ Persons who looked for a job after completing degree requirements.

Table F. Assessment 1/ of first and October 1971 jobs, by relationship of work to major field of study, type of degree and sex

(Percent distribution)

Items	Total	Assessment of job						
		Job with definite career potential	Job with possible career potential	Temporary job				Other
				Until better one could be found	To earn money for school, travel or other purposes	To earn money while deciding kind of work wanted	While waiting to report to new job	
FIRST JOB								
Total	100.0	31.3	23.6	19.8	12.9	6.0	3.7	2.7
Sex								
Men	100.0	32.4	24.8	18.2	12.3	7.3	2.7	2.2
Women	100.0	29.9	21.8	22.0	13.6	4.2	5.1	3.4
Relationship to Field of Study								
Directly related	100.0	50.4	29.7	7.4	5.2	1.9	2.3	3.1
Not directly related	100.0	12.7	16.4	32.1	20.9	10.4	4.8	2.6
Somewhat related	100.0	28.6	27.6	17.2	12.5	9.9	3.6	.5
Not related	100.0	3.8	10.2	40.4	25.6	10.8	5.5	3.8
Type of Degree								
Bachelor's	100.0	26.1	21.7	22.5	15.6	7.0	4.4	2.7
Master's and Ph.D.'s	100.0	48.7	29.9	13.4	3.1	2.7	1.8	.4
Occupation								
Professional and technical	100.0	42.9	28.2	11.0	7.4	4.5	3.1	2.9
Teachers, except college	100.0	50.0	27.0	10.6	5.0	2.8	1.4	3.2
Other professional	100.0	37.0	29.3	11.2	9.5	5.9	4.4	2.7
Clerical	100.0	6.7	16.8	37.6	20.8	9.4	7.4	1.3
All other	100.0	18.6	16.7	29.4	23.5	8.1	2.3	1.4
OCTOBER 1971 JOB								
Total	100.0	41.8	27.9	13.7	8.8	5.1	0.7	2.0
Sex								
Men	100.0	43.6	27.6	12.2	8.7	5.7	1.0	1.2
Women	100.0	39.3	28.3	15.7	9.0	4.3	.2	3.1
Relationship to Field of Study								
Directly related	100.0	56.0	31.2	5.4	3.8	1.6	0.5	1.6
Not directly related	100.0	20.2	22.4	26.0	16.6	10.8	1.0	3.1
Somewhat related	100.0	30.7	31.7	18.0	8.5	7.9	1.6	1.6
Not related	100.0	11.5	14.5	32.6	23.3	13.2	.4	4.4
Type of Degree								
Bachelor's	100.0	37.4	27.6	14.9	11.1	5.9	0.4	2.6
Master's and Ph.D.'s	100.0	53.0	30.9	10.1	1.4	3.7	.9	-
Occupation								
Professional and technical	100.0	49.7	31.0	9.0	4.4	3.4	0.6	1.8
Teachers, except college	100.0	54.3	29.5	7.9	3.5	2.2	.6	1.9
Other professional	100.0	45.4	32.4	10.0	5.3	4.4	.6	1.8
Clerical	100.0	10.5	21.9	30.7	19.3	12.3	1.8	3.5
All other	100.0	31.6	21.6	18.1	18.7	8.8	.6	.6

1/ Assessment at the time of accepting job.

Table C. Annual rate of earnings on first job compared with earnings expectations, by type of degree and sex

(Percent distribution)

Type of degree, earnings and sex	Earnings on first job compared with expectations					
	Total 1/	Substantially lower	Somewhat lower	About the same	Somewhat higher	Substantially higher
BACHELOR'S						
Total	100.0	35.2	22.7	32.8	8.4	0.9
Under $3,000	100.0	80.5	11.3	7.5	.8	-
$3,000 to $4,999	100.0	69.7	18.3	11.0	.9	-
$5,000 to $5,999	100.0	44.9	35.9	19.2	-	-
$6,000 to $6,999	100.0	12.5	35.9	46.1	5.5	-
$7,000 to $7,999	100.0	5.7	25.7	59.0	9.5	-
$8,000 and over	100.0	4.3	15.2	47.8	28.3	4.3
Men	100.0	33.2	24.5	30.5	10.2	1.6
Women	100.0	37.5	20.7	35.4	6.4	-
MASTER'S AND PH.D.'S						
Total	100.0	15.9	26.2	46.8	11.1	-

1/ Excludes persons whose first job was a continuation of one they held while completing requirements for degree.

Table H. Main reason first job took five weeks or more to find, by relationship of work to major field of study, type of degree and length of job search

(Percent distribution)

Items	Total		Reason					
	Number (thousands)	Percent	No jobs available	Available jobs not related to field of study	Did not like kind of work available	Unsatisfactory working conditions	Low pay in available jobs	Other reasons
Total with job search of 5 weeks or more	245	100.0	50.7	19.5	8.8	4.7	0.9	15.3
RELATIONSHIP OF WORK TO FIELD OF STUDY								
Directly related	94	100.0	36.0	13.1	4.8	4.8	-	21.4
Not directly related	151	100.0	46.9	23.8	11.3	4.6	1.3	11.3
TYPE OF DEGREE								
Bachelor's	217	100.0	52.1	21.4	6.8	3.6	1.6	14.6
LENGTH OF JOB SEARCH								
5 to 9 weeks	111	100.0	45.3	18.9	10.5	3.2	-	22.1
10 weeks or more	134	100.0	55.8	19.2	7.5	5.8	1.7	10.0

Table I. Main reason for leaving first job, by sex

(Percent distribution)

Reason	All job leavers			Job leavers employed in October 1971		
	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women
Total: Number (thousands)	355	182	173	275	150	125
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
To take better job	25.9	26.4	25.4	32.1	32.2	32.0
Laid off	18.8	23.6	13.9	17.0	23.3	9.6
Unsatisfactory working conditions	9.1	7.9	10.4	9.2	7.5	11.2
Training not used	8.5	11.2	5.8	8.5	9.6	7.2
Personal or family reasons	14.0	5.1	23.1	8.5	2.7	15.2
Did not like kind of work	6.3	3.4	9.2	7.0	2.1	12.8
Returned to school	5.4	8.4	2.3	4.4	7.5	.8
Low pay	2.8	3.4	2.3	3.7	4.1	3.2
Other reasons	9.1	10.7	7.5	9.6	11.0	8.0

Table J. Main reason for leaving first job, by relationship of work to field of study and occupation

(Percent distribution)

Reason	Total	Relationship to field		Occupation	
		Directly related	Not directly related	Professional and technical	All others
Total: Number (thousands)	355	120	235	182	173
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
To take better job	25.9	23.7	26.6	20.1	29.0
Laid off	18.8	18.4	18.3	22.7	18.6
Unsatisfactory working conditions	9.1	7.9	9.2	9.7	9.7
Training not used	8.5	3.5	11.9	4.5	11.0
Personal or family reasons	14.0	25.4	9.2	21.4	9.0
Did not like kind of work	6.3	2.6	6.9	4.5	9.7
Returned to school	5.4	2.6	6.9	4.5	6.2
Low pay	2.8	5.3	1.8	3.2	1.4
Other reasons	9.1	10.5	9.2	9.1	5.5

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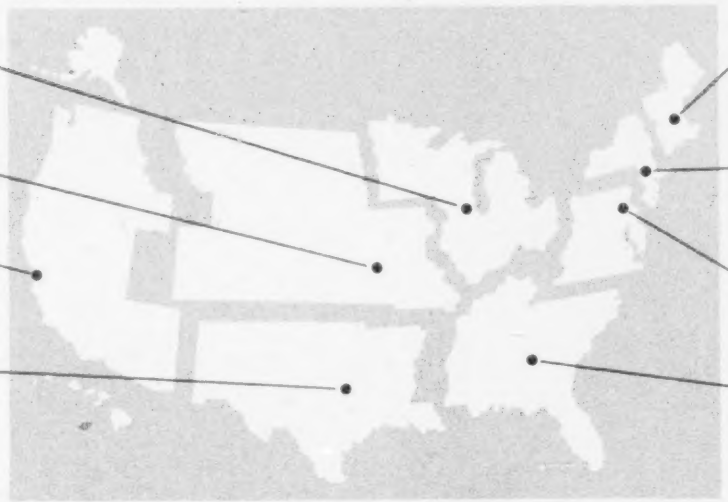

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